

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, April 30, 1984

and

Tuesday, May 1, 1984

GEORGE N. GRAY

CHAIRMAN

Kenner, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

May 1, 1984

AGENDA

	<u>Page No.</u>
1. Roll call.	1
2. Invocation.	1
3. Approval of minutes of February 21, March 20 and April 3.	2
4. National Hunting and Fishing Day.	2
5. Caddo Lake regulations.	3
6. Discussion of spring shrimp season.	3
7. Ratification of the Oyster Fisheries Rules as they pertain to the Survey Section.	6

MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE & FISHERIES COMMISSION

KENNER, LOUISIANA

April 30, 1984

and

May 1, 1984

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members present:

Dr. Jack Cappel  
Mr. Gary Chouest  
Mr. Lyle Crain  
Mr. Wayne Ducote  
Mr. James Farrelly  
Mr. Dale Vinet

Secretary J. Burton Angelle was present.

\* \* \* \*

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. George N. Gray, on Monday, April 30 at 2:00 p.m. at the Airport Hilton in Kenner, Louisiana.

Motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. James Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the Commission go into a committee of the whole.

\* \* \* \*

A roll call of members present was taken.

\* \* \* \*

The invocation was offered by Dr. Jack Cappel.

\* \* \* \*

A motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Wayne Ducote, and passed unanimously, to approve the minutes of February 21, March 20 and April 3, 1984.

\*

\*

\*

\*

Mr. Joe Herring presented a resolution to the Commission on National Hunting & Fishing Day. A motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly, seconded by Dr. Jack Cappel, and passed unanimously, that the resolution be adopted.

(The full text of the resolution here is made part of the record)

WHEREAS, because of the outstanding contributions that America's hunters and fishermen have made to conservation, recreation and the economy, they are deserving of special recognition, and

WHEREAS, since the turn of the century, hunters and anglers have been the leaders in nearly all major conservation programs. These sportsmen-conservationists are responsible for the funding of state and game departments in all fifty states. They asked that they, themselves, be required to buy licenses and that the money collected be used to support state conservation agencies. In the last fifty years alone, these sportsmen have provided \$2.5 billion for conservation programs, and

WHEREAS, hunters and fishermen asked for the establishment of regulated seasons and bag limits so that sportsmen could harvest the annual crop of game and fish without damage to the basic breeding population. The result has been that there are now more deer, elk, antelope and wild turkey in the United States than there were fifty years ago. Further, sportsmen's programs have benefited numerous species of non-game fish and wildlife through habitat development, and

WHEREAS, hunters and fishermen, unique in all America, asked that their fishing and hunting equipment be taxed and that the money be used for land acquisition, research and habitat management for fish and wildlife for the enjoyment of all Americans, and

WHEREAS, through their publications and organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League of America and many others, hunters and fishermen have led the nation in the battle for a better environment and the wise use of our natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby proclaim September 22, 1984, as National Hunting and Fishing Day in Louisiana. The Commission urges all of our citizens to join with the sportsmen-conservationists in a rededication to the wise use of our natural resources and their proper management for the benefit of future generations. Further, the Commission urges all citizens to take part in National Hunting and Fishing Day activities on September 22, 1984, to learn more about conservation and outdoor skills.

\* \* \* \*

There was no one present in the audience representing the people interested in Caddo Lake regulations. Therefore discussion of the regulations was dropped from the agenda.

\* \* \* \*

A motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Wayne Ducote, and passed unanimously, to have the August meeting on the 6th and 7th in New Orleans.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. William Perret presented his projections for the 1984 brown shrimp season based on biological and hydrological data gathered from the Seafood Division's technical monitoring program on shrimp. Recommendations for the 1984 season are as follows:

Zone I	-	6:00 a.m. on June 4
Zone II	-	6:00 a.m. on May 21
Zone III	-	6:00 2.m. on June 4

\* \* \* \*

Ms. Germain Curley, President of the Plaquemine Parish Commission Council requested that the Commission open all zones at the same time to relieve the serious safety problem which occurs in the Empire, Venice, Buras area due to the tremendous influx of boats into the area. Mr. Perret and the Commission recognized the seriousness of the problem but felt that the opening should be based on biological data.

\* \* \* \*

Mr. George Gray reminded the Commission that we are currently involved in litigation from the 1983 spring shrimp season due to an opinion rendered by the Attorney General's Office. Based on this opinion the Commission is mandated to open the season statewide by May 25.

A concurrent resolution was introduced on April 30 which would suspend RS 56:497(a) and allow the Commission to set the season or a portion thereof after May. 25.

Mr. Angelle read a portion of the concurrent resolution which asks that the legislature suspends until June 11, 1984 the provision of RS 56:497(a) relative to shrimping to extend the date set for commencement of the shrimping season,

WHEREAS, RS56:497(a) mandates that spring or brown shrimp season commence not later than May 25 of each year, and

WHEREAS, preliminary biological data indicates that it may be necessary to delay the opening of the shrimp or brown shrimp season until after May 25 in certain zones this year in order to enhance the yield of brown shrimp,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana, the Senate thereof concurring that the provision of RS 56:497(a) which requires the spring shrimp season to commence no later than May 25 is hereby suspended until June 11, 1984,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become effective upon final adoption by the Legislature of Louisiana.

\* \* \* \*

A motion was made by Mr. James Farrelly to accept the recommendation of Mr. Perret which was:

Zone I	-	6:00 a.m. on June 4
Zone II	-	6:00 a.m. on May 21
Zone III	-	6:00 a.m. on June 4

with the stipulation that these dates would be enforced provided that the concurrent resolution passes by May 21. Otherwise, the season would open statewide on May 21 at 6:00 a.m. Also, that the

Secretary of the Department would have the authority to close the season when deemed necessary to protect the white shrimp, the criteria being when 10% of the sample is white shrimp.

Dr. Jack Cappel suggested to Mr. Farrelly that May 14 be the cut-off date for the concurrent resolution to be acted upon.

There was no action on this motion.

\*

\*

\*

\*

A motion was made by Mr. Farrelly to accept the recommendation of Mr. Perret with the stipulation that the Secretary of the Department would have the authority to close the season when deemed necessary to protect the white shrimp, the criteria being when 10% of the sample is white shrimp.

An amendment was made to this motion by Dr. Jack Cappel that if the concurrent resolution does not pass by May 18 then the season will open statewide on May 21.

There was no second on the motion as amended.

An amendment was made by Mr. Farrelly that if the concurrent resolution does not pass by May 18 the season would be:

Zone I	-	6:00 a.m. May 25
Zone II	-	6:00 a.m. May 21
Zone III	-	6:00 a.m. May 25

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wayne Ducote. A roll call vote was taken.

Dr. Jack Cappel	-	Against
Mr. Gary Chouest	-	In favor
Mr. Lyle Crain	-	In favor
Mr. Wayne Ducote	-	Against
Mr. Jim Farrelly	-	In favor
Mr. Dale Vinet	-	In favor

The resolution on the 1984 spring shrimp season was adopted as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 1984 Spring "Brown" Shrimp Season shall open at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, May 21, in Shrimp Management Zone 2. Zone 2 is defined as that part of the statutorily defined "inside waters" extending from South Pass of the

Mississippi River to the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island, and that the Season shall open at 6:00 a.m., on Monday, June 4 in Shrimp Management Zones 1 and 3. Zone 1 is defined as that portion of the statutorily defined "inside waters" extending from the Louisiana - Mississippi state line to south Pass of the Mississippi River. Zone 3 is defined as that portion of the statutorily defined "inside waters" extending from the western shore of Vermilion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island to the Louisiana - Texas state line.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Shrimp Management Zones 1 and 3 are contingent upon the passage of HCR 72, which would suspend that portion of RS 56:497 relative to the May 25 opening day, and that should the proposed HCR 72 fail to pass both houses of the Legislature, by the close of the Legislative business day, on May 18, 1984, the 1984 Spring "Brown" Shrimp Season shall open at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, May 25 in Shrimp Management Zones 1 and 3.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to provide for partial closures or complete closure of the Spring "Brown" Shrimp Season in inshore waters to protect small white shrimp when significant numbers (average of 10% by number) are found in any well defined area (s) at the Department's established sampling stations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission shall immediately issue a press release upon the passage or failure of the pending HCR 72 so as to immediately inform the public as to the opening dates for Shrimp Management Zones 1 and 3.

\* \* \* \*

A motion was made by Mr. Gary Chouest, seconded by Mr. James Farrelly and passed unanimously to ratify the oyster fisheries rules as they pertain to the survey section.

\* \* \* \*

A motion was made by Dr. Jack Cappel, seconded by Mr. James Farrelly to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes transcribed by  
Linda Gregson